

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. An assembly, comprising:
 - a nursing bottle comprising a substantially rigid housing and a nipple disposed at a first end of the housing in fluid communication with a containment space inside the housing; and
 - a toy figure shaped to resemble a three-dimensional animate being attached to the nursing bottle, the toy figure comprising a plurality of appendages disposed at least partly around the housing of the nursing bottle, a head oriented towards the first end of the housing, and a body disposed along the housing between the first end and an opposing second end of the housing.
2. The assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a fastener interposed between the toy figure and the housing, the fastener configured for attaching and detaching the toy figure to the nursing bottle.
- 15 3. The assembly of Claim 2, wherein the fastener comprises a fabric hook-and-loop fastener.
4. The assembly of Claim 2, wherein the fastener is configured to permit the toy figure to rotate relative to the nursing bottle.
- 20 5. The assembly of Claim 2, wherein the fastener comprises a post engaged in a receptacle.
6. The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the toy figure is configured to clasp the housing using the plurality of appendages.
7. The assembly of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of appendages are disposed so as to resiliently clasp the housing therebetween.

8. The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the toy figure is adhered to the nursing bottle.
 9. The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the toy figure is co-molded to the housing.
- 5 10. The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the toy figure comprises a plastic molded object.
11. The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the toy figure comprises a substantially hollow plastic molded object.
 12. The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the toy figure comprises a plush toy.
- 10 13. The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the toy figure is shaped and colored to resemble a real animal.
14. The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the toy figure is shaped to resemble an animate being selected from the group consisting of: a teddy bear, a leopard, a female lion, a male lion, a lynx, a human girl, a chipmunk, a rat, a guinea pig, a hippopotamus, 15 a panda, a horse, a penguin, a deer, a seal, a lamb, a turtle, a pig, an alligator, a house cat, a walrus, a cow, a tiger, a raccoon, a puppy, a wolf, a zebra, a duckling, a koala bear, an otter, a donkey, an elephant, a polar bear, a monkey, a squirrel, a dolphin, a weasel, a naturalistic bear, a frog, a fox, a guinea pig, a rabbit, a hound dog, a sheep dog, a Spaniel dog, a human boy, a hedgehog, a kangaroo, a camel, and a chick.

15. A toy figure configured for attachment to a nursing bottle, the toy figure shaped to resemble a three-dimensional animate being and comprising:
a body having a undersurface resembling a belly of the animate being and a back surface resembling a back of the animate being;
- 5 a head attached to a first end of the body;
a plurality of appendages extending from the body away from its undersurface, the plurality of appendages shaped to fit at least partly around a housing of the nursing bottle as if to embrace it; and
means for attaching the toy figure to the housing of the nursing bottle.
- 10 16. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the means for attaching the toy figure to the housing comprises a fabric hook-and-loop fastener.
17. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the means for attaching the toy figure to the housing comprises a fastener configured to permit rotation between the toy figure and the housing.
- 15 18. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the means for attaching the toy figure to the housing comprises a post-and-receptacle fastener.
19. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the means for attaching the toy figure to the housing comprises a clasp that includes the plurality of appendages.
20. The assembly of Claim 19, wherein the plurality of appendages are disposed so as to resiliently clasp the housing therebetween.
21. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the means for attaching the toy figure to the housing comprises an adhesive material disposed on the undersurface of the toy figure.
22. The assembly of Claim 15, further comprising a nursing bottle housing co-molded to the toy figure.

23. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the toy figure comprises a plastic molded object.
24. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the toy figure comprises a substantially hollow plastic molded object.
- 5 25. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the toy figure comprises a plush toy.
26. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the toy figure is shaped and colored to resemble a real animal.
27. The assembly of Claim 15, wherein the toy figure is shaped to resemble an animate being selected from the group consisting of: a teddy bear, a leopard, a female lion, a male lion, a lynx, a human girl, a chipmunk, a rat, a guinea pig, a hippopotamus, a panda, a horse, a penguin, a deer, a seal, a lamb, a turtle, a pig, an alligator, a house cat, a walrus, a cow, a tiger, a raccoon, a puppy, a wolf, a zebra, a duckling, a koala bear, an otter, a donkey, an elephant, a polar bear, a monkey, a squirrel, a dolphin, a weasel, a naturalistic bear, a frog, a fox, a guinea pig, a rabbit, a hound dog, a sheep dog, a Spaniel dog, a human boy, a hedgehog, a kangaroo, a camel, and a chick.